



# TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
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Tonight, we are graduating from MBA's Junior School, and before the hoorays and chants of freedom, let's look back at what MBA has given us during our time here. Past the themes, the Latin exam, the songs of the day, and the "drama," MBA's Junior School has presented us with some of the most important parts of a man, and while these novi homines (new men) are honored tonight, let's also honor what has taken them from microbe to underclassman.

MBA, especially the school, can be overwhelming, which it's supposed to be. MBA's Junior School is one of the most academically-rigorous in the nation, but why us? Well the two hours of sleep you were able to get last night is to prepare you for being able to grind out work in the future. Before MBA, a lot of us had no homework, maybe an hour at most, but at MBA you get to feel the full experience of a heavy workload. The experience you gain by doing all this work carries people through college. For example, Andy Zhu ('17), is able to balance the Vanderbilt workload and be a realtor. It hurts right now, like

## *What I've Learned from the Junior School*

*By Luke Kim*

it's supposed to, but in the future you'll be able to take it, and building up that tolerance is what MBA's Junior School is for.

At MBA's Junior School, there is a strong emphasis on how you look. While not exactly a cosmetology school, MBA's teachers love to find the smallest things and make you perfect them. Most MBA boys have the feeling that untucked shirts are a small issue, and Coach Anderson shouldn't get mad about it, but the fact is that the MBA teachers are instilling in you the important habit of looking nice. In the future, you'll need to look good to get a job and the respect of your peers, and you can get there by looking respectable. However, respect is a double-edged sword.

MBA's Junior School's main focus is respect. At MBA's Junior School, teachers don't lie to you: you are below them on the hierarchy, and you'd better treat them like it. Again, having Mr. Russell get onto you about not saying "sir" doesn't feel great, but it adds up. Showing others respect is a practical and needed characteristic to success. Not only does MBA enjoy the respect of others, but it also enjoys self-respect, and self-respect is a vital part of life, allowing for you to rebound

from your lows and mold yourself into a better you.

MBA's Junior School is tough, and it's a hard journey through the homework, sports, and classes, but all for a good reason. MBA teaches us not only material, but also life skills that will be important in the future. From diligence to looking good to respect, MBA's Junior School has given us what we need to succeed in high school, college, and life afterwards. I went to MBA because my parents wanted me to get these qualities and take them with me in the future, but these characteristics are valuable, and believe me, my mom told me they were.

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# ATLANTA

## The Aquarium

By Carter Ozburn

The Chattanooga Aquarium was a great addition to the Atlanta trip. It had tons of different species of fish and many native species to that area. They had many fish I had never seen before. Over 2000 different species of fish were all represented in the aquarium, with their own respective habitats. The first building was a great aquarium by itself, and the second building was the icing on the cake. The first exhibit we went on, following a fun but crowded escalator ride, was the River Journey. This exhibit took us down through many rivers across Tennessee and displayed a wide variety of wildlife I had never seen before. The Appalachian Cove Forest exhibited the wildlife on and around the Tennessee River, coming from its source in the Smoky Mountains. Next, the Discovery Hall followed the Tennessee as it flowed into the Ohio River, two ecosystems colliding. Then, the Mississippi Delta exhibit traced the Mississippi as it flowed into the Gulf of Mexico and



displayed the diverse groups of fish living in and near the Delta. The next exhibit was especially cool. The River Giants exhibit displayed extremely large river creatures, including massive catfish, alligators, giant stingrays, and lake sturgeons. The Rivers of the World gallery took us on a journey outside our comfort zone, to a brief overview of world-wide exotic river creatures. And the last exhibit, Tennessee River Journey summarized the whole journey, ending with Reelfoot Lake.

The next building was called Ocean Journey. We immediately walked into the Tropical Cove, with tons of interesting deep sea dwellers. Also in that exhibit, we saw the Red Lemurs, incredibly endangered and considered appropriate aquarian wildlife because of their proximity to water. Then, the next exhibit was a massive touch pool called Stingray Bay. You can touch all different kinds of rays, sharks, sturgeons, and other harmless sea

creatures. Then, we entered the Butterfly garden, containing over 75 different kinds of butterflies, just in that garden. Next, my personal favorite, Penguin Rock. The penguins are always up to something, and it is a popular exhibit in the aquarium. Then, we walked into the largest and greatest exhibit there, the Secret Reef. This is a fully active reef, with tons of different sharks, rays, fish, and two sea turtles. More than two-thousand fish are in the Secret Reef, representing a reef system in the Gulf of Mexico. After that, you could get a better view from the Undersea Caverns. These caverns give you a nice view of fish usually never seen from up close. The final exhibit of this incredible aquarium was the Boneless Beauties exhibit, including Jellyfish, the Giant Pacific Octopus, the Cuttlefish, and Japanese Spider Crabs. It ended with a super cool, dark mirrored tank, with tons of bioluminescent fish swimming in a school.

The whole aquarium was a great taste of what fun we were going to have in Atlanta and widely contributed to the trip's success as a whole.



# ATLANTA

## Paintball Atlanta

By Chase Thor

### Round One: Win

Well... I would prefer not to talk about the first round of paintball. It was a cloudy day, perfect temperature for such a physically demanding sport such as paintball. I had my hopper filled to the brim with marbled pink and gold paintballs, ready to go. My team was called up for the first round. I shifted my old airsoft facemask and goggles into a comfortable position before the ref called out: THREE! TWO! ONE! LET'S PLAY SOME PAINTBALL! I sprinted full steam down the middle of the course with no regard for my personal safety until I reached a small hill. I slid right up to the edge on the muddy ground to where I could see the entire field around me. My goggles were not fogging (yet), and I was having a blast. Within my first five shots, I had taken out one of the enemy players; within the next five: another. By the time the ref pulled me out of the game, I had performed three clean headshots. Apparently, my airsoft gear was not up to this paintball course's standards for safety, and therefore I would have to wear one of their rental facemasks.



### Round Two: Win

I know what you're thinking: bummer, big deal. It's just a rental mask. I was thinking the exact same when it was announced that my team had won, and we were moving on to play in the next match. THREE! TWO! ONE! GO, GO, GO! I raced up the middle again, this time coming from the opposite side of the field. I again made it to the same hill as round one when my vision started to fade. At first, it was just my peripherals, slowly becoming opaque, but soon enough I was as blind as... well, a paintball player who forgot to bring some anti-fog. Because of my now impaired sense of sight, I failed to notice that one of my teammates had pushed up and taken the small plywood structure slightly up-left field of me. Instinctively, seeing a slight bit of movement and hearing the dull report of the marker, I opened fire. I heard my first shot hit the wall. Dang. My second: also the wall. DANG. My third: a direct hit to the midsection of... my teammate Miles. He turned around and shot me.

### Round Three: Win

This time, I rushed up the right side. There were tubes all the way from spawn to span, providing excellent cover for an advance. I dove as the first shots began to rain down, just barely making it in time. After crawling for a good five minutes, I had made it behind enemy lines. So far, in fact, that I was shot by my own teammate. Again.

### Round Four: Win

This time, I took the middle straight up: no clever stealth tactics. I made it to the same center hill that had served me so well in the past and started firing. By the time I was out of ammunition, I had taken down a good five opposing players. Then, when I held up my hand to signify me being out, I got shot. Directly in the arm. I still have a bruise there.

### Round Five: Well...

We lost. Miserably. All three teams took to the larger forest field to really test their skills. With a slightly overfilled tank of air, I was feeling relatively confident. My first shot was a direct hit to the facemask of one of my classmates. Immediately after, I was absolutely pinned. In a valiant attempt to push forward to a nearby trench, I was cut down. By friendly fire.

### Round Six: Win

Back in the first field, I decided to move up the right flank once again. This time, I made it back far enough to rack up seven eliminations, and an impressive ZERO teamkills.

### Conclusion: 19/19 would do again

I have to admit; I was not excited at all for the Atlanta trip. Four-hour bus rides and four boys in a two-person room was not exactly my style, to be honest. In the end, though, paintball was so fun that I ended up getting back into airsoft, which I quit doing more than a year ago. So, for all you seventh graders reading this, I would not have missed this trip for the world. Whether or not it seems worth it, just go on the trip. You'll find that cramped rooms and long bus rides can be worth something more.

# ATLANTA

## Atlanta Trip: Six Flags over Georgia

By Alex Deerkoski



Overall, Six Flags was one of the most fun activities on the Atlanta Trip. The students got off the buses and arrived at the front gate at 9:30 am. This was 30 minutes before the park opened. So, we were among the first people to get into the

park. Once the gates opened, there were only two rides open: Acrophobia and Twisted Cyclone. I headed straight to Twisted Cyclone with my group. It was my favorite coaster at the park because of how intense it was. Acrophobia was the drop tower that raised you up and then dropped you over ten stories straight down. At about 10:30 am, the rest of the roller coasters opened, including the Goliath, which was the tallest roller coaster in the park standing at 200 feet tall. Among other fun coasters at the park were

Batman, a really fun roller coaster that goes upside down many times. There was also Dare Devil Dive, which has a vertical drop that goes upside down many times as well. Overall, there were many great roller coasters at Six Flags, that made it an extremely fun day.



## Andretti World

By Charlie Murff



My experience at Andretti World was a good one. Andretti World, in case you do not know, is a place in Atlanta where there are video games everywhere with Go Karts in the back. Andretti World is named after Mario Andretti, an Italian car driver who enjoyed a very prominent career. Thus, he is well-deserving of a gaming and Go Karting area.

We first arrived at Andretti World after a morning of paintballing and resting. It was fair to say that we were ready for the games. When we first arrived, we had to get wristbands to show our time to the workers. After the quick-ish amount of time of doing that, we finally got in to wait in another line for our game cards. Finally, after almost ten minutes of waiting, we got inside

to reign free. For me the first stop was the Go Karts where after a quick five minute wait, we got to put on our racing helmets that were surprisingly comfortable. We

got in another line to type in our racing names for the Go Karts. After less than five minutes, we finally chose our names and got in our Go Karts. Because it was all about time and not about placing, it didn't matter where you were in line. Once I started, my only goal was to win, and so I did what every racer before me (metaphorically) did, which was take the inside. This technique proved useful as I got second and third place the two times I raced. Next was getting food. The meal plan we got consisted



of cheeseburgers, barbecue chips, and brownies which were a perfect after a long day. Following the quick scarfing down of my food, I left to finally go play some games. There were more games than I could count, and realistically, a whole day could be spent there. There was everything from mini-basketball games to 3D zombie games. But for me, the best game was the *Star Wars* spaceship game where the pilot would fly its way through different scenes in *Star Wars* like the Death Star destruction scene where you had to destroy the Death Star. Another staple at Andretti World was the Laser Tag where we got to do what we did at Paintball while getting hurt much less.

All-in-all, Andretti World was a fun experience, and a memory that I will keep with me for many years. In my opinion, I enjoyed Andretti World the most out of all the places we went to in Atlanta. While there, one can race Go-Karts, play Laser tag or basketball, and be a pilot in *Star Wars*. I very much enjoyed it, and I hope everyone else did also.

# ATLANTA



## JS Debate

By Marshall Green

The 2018-2019 school year for debate has come to a triumphant close, and one of the many areas where the class of 2023 flourished was in policy debate. Over the course of the winter, most Junior Schoolers finished with a speaker award, winning record, or a tournament win, and the group hopes to succeed in the future as students of MBA.

The last two tournaments the debaters attended were at the University of Georgia and The First and Second Year National Championships at Woodward Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. At UGA, MBA sent three teams in novice with a junior schooler on the teams. The team of Marshall Green ('23) and Parks Asbury ('23) went to their first tournament as partners, and they had a record of 4-2, losing in the quarter finals with solid speaker positions. The partnership of Gene Herrmann ('22) and Chanden Climaco ('23) had a similar tournament result with good 4-2 record, and the team reached the semi-finals until they got



“walked over” by Ben Boza ('20) and Asher Maxwell ('22) who eventually won the tournament. Alex Barnard ('23) and Ryan Estrin ('22) cranked out a 4-2 record and lost in the quarters. In the open division, Jack Young ('23) and Luke Kim ('23) participated in the varsity division and went 2-4, but their record does not indicate their success. The duo was matched against some of the best debaters in the country and had close debates. Overall, the tournament was a huge success, and the squad had lots of momentum going into their final tournament of the season.

At Woodward the entered teams were against the best first and second year teams the nation has to offer. After hours of preparation work, the team was confident for success, and

the tournament was full of triumphs and heartbreaks. On the first day of competition in the first year division, Marshall Green and Parks Asbury started off at a 2-0 record against some tough teams, but the success ran out and closed out at 3-3, which was not a desired record for the duo. In the second year division, Alex Barnard and Chandon Climaco started off at a 4-0 start which included an

incredible win against the best team in the tournament. After the hot start, Alex and Chandon finished 4-2 but lost in the quarter finals. Another team was Jack Young and Jack Pacconi ('22) finishing at 4-2 with some impressive wins over good teams. The Jacks lost in quarters against Salt Lake City West which was one of the best teams in the tournament. Luke Kim and Bryan Zhang ('22) went 1-5 with very close rounds against good teams.

Overall, Ben Bozza ('20) and Asher Maxwell ('22) reached the finals in the first year division, but they lost a hard fought round against The Westminster Schools in Atlanta.

The season was a tremendous success, and the group is working hard to come back better than ever.

# *Junior Honor Society Inductees*

## *Congratulations on a Job Well Done!*



### **Spring 2019 Junior Honor Society Inductees**

Ethan Bandaccari  
 Wiley Buenahora  
 Miles Butler  
 Nate Cantrell  
 Connor Carr  
 Simon Cian  
 Chanden Climaco  
 Payne Daniel  
 Andrew Dovan  
 Colston Elder  
 Owen Flanagan  
 Jack Forbes  
 Jake Frazier

Marshall Green  
 Cooper Greene  
 Reid Groomes  
 David Han  
 Thomas Harwell  
 Edward Herlitzka  
 Yatish Jindal  
 Cameron Kinser  
 Gus Kirkland  
 Hayden Kirkland  
 Jackson Lefler  
 Christian Lim  
 Matthew McMinn

Ely McRae  
 Niles Meltesen  
 Andy Nunn  
 Carter Ozburn  
 Oliver Pilkinton  
 Henry Pitt  
 Owen Reese  
 Peter Roark  
 Mac Russ  
 Andrew Smith  
 Grayson Soper  
 Walker Stevens  
 Quinlan Stewart

Joshua Tan  
 Patrick Tatro  
 Browning Trainer  
 Evan Viars  
 Wyatt Walters  
 Alex Wang  
 Logan Watts  
 Carter Welch  
 Peter Xu



Nathan Williams



Chanden Climaco

Frank Pierce

## Junior School Tradition Continues with Thirteenth Annual Recitation Competition

The final round of the thirteenth annual Libby Bourland Recitation Contest was held on April 17 in the Dead Poets Society Room. The competition is a celebration of National Poetry Month and the culmination of a year of quarterly recitation work by each student in the Junior School. The rounds begin with a representative from each English class and end with two seventh-grade finalists and two eighth-grade finalists. This year's representatives for the seventh grade were Frank Pierce and Nathan Williams, and the eighth-grade finalists were Chanden Climaco and Chase Thor. The finalists were quite varied with their presentations. Chanden and Chase presented impassioned but very different renditions of Marc Antony's funeral speech in *Julius Caesar*, and Frank and Nathan took forthright and inspirational approaches with Rudyard Kipling's "If." Each performance was strong, and the competition was fierce, but eighth-grader Chase Thor and seventh-grader Frank Pierce emerged the victors. Congratulations to each of these young men for their hard work and fine performances.

# Endada

By Samuel Kinch

On Saturday, April 27, MBA was engulfed by joy, delicious food, spectacular music, and the arts, creating the ultimate festival: Endada. The booths were covered with sculptures and artifacts, contemporaries and caricatures, t-shirts and sweats, and markers and crayons. In the words of Carter Ozburn, “[Endada was] very diverse. [It contained] different things for different kinds of people.” Endada was like a hive, with students and faculty bustling around to art exhibits, food trucks, art creation stations, and festival tents. Attendees seemed to have specific destinations in mind, but in reality they wandered about the grounds.

Each booth had its own little bit to add to Endada, and each added a piece to the whole. The intricate and beautiful wet paints of Joe Edward, where the canvas behind the wet paint was raised in blocks, a style completely unique to himself, and the student-run booths of Luke Kim and Jack Young,



selling simplistic designs supporting the unification of Korea on t-shirts and sweatshirts, were two different contributors to the beautiful chaos of the event. Aside from the bazaar of Endada, there was also the creative part of it, the favorite of those being the button maker because of the endless possibilities in such a simple thing of a button. There was also the graffiti wall, the mural, plus the child crafts area—all were fun to view and participate in.

The Endada event is a hallmark of MBA's art's program, and every year the team is looking “to improve every aspect of the festival.” For Ms. Hollifield this year was one of the best having “more student run booths than we've ever had, and to me, that's the best change and sign we are moving in the right direction ... I'm always really impressed by their ingenuity!”

The student volunteers and sellers are what makes Endada special to the arts program, and Ms. Hollifield says that Endada “has always been led by a very motivated and inspired group of students” and I cannot wait until next year's event. Not only have the students' booths helped Endada, but they have also increased student enjoyment

of the event. It is because of the student body's eager participation in the event that keeps it growing, and the bazaar is always flooded with people enthusiastic to get their face painted or their thumb molded. Many had things to say about the event. Tommy Carson: “I saw some Slam Poetry and it was funny;” Grayson Soper: “The snowcones are the best ever”; Niles Meltesen: “Excellent;” Will Elrod: “Constellation was good;” and Hillary Odede: “I really love how much work was put into this.” Every person that gave a comment on the event really enjoyed a part of it. In the words of Carter Ozburn, there was “Different things for different kinds of people.”



**The staff and  
sponsors of Top of  
the Hill would like  
to thank the MBA  
Mothers and  
Fathers Clubs for  
their generous  
support this year!**

# The Endada Booth Experience

By Luke Kim

On the 27th, Ms. Hollifield and quite a few MBA boys put on a great show for the 2019 Endada arts festival, and I'm happy to say I was a part of the event. At Endada I had booth selling clothes for the Liberty in North Korea organization, but having a booth was an experience itself. Through the struggles and the good times, one thing stayed constant, the fun chaos of Endada.

To run a booth, you need a product, and I had shirts designed with the help of Andrew Dovan, and made with the help of Ms. Hollifield. I made the



shirts and sweatshirts about two weeks before Endada, and up to that point, it was easy and pretty fun. Then the event came near. I, as one of the least organized people on campus, found it hard to keep up with the organization of it all. Of course, what happens before Endada pales in comparison to the actual event.

Before Endada, I went to MBA at around 8 AM. This was a mistake. I had to carry two large boxes of shirts throughout the campus to find the hidey-hole they would stay in until I found my booth. I then got the set-up assignment to help with the artist and volunteer information booth, which had me running around the quad like John Curry to match every sign to their booth (I gave up and just handed them out

when the artist came). Not only was there physical work, but I had to make small talk with the big scary high schoolers and the volunteering moms.

Finally I found my booth and set it up for Endada. Now to run my booth, Oh No! The night before the festival, 12:03 AM exactly, I got a message from the person I had recruited to help me

work my booth saying, "Kinda late but I can't go to endada tmrw." This was a death sentence, but like the *Avengers*, I had a Deus ex Machina moment when the kids with demerits arrived to help with Endada. So now my party had a new member during the Endada quest, and I was soon to get more. I came to my booth to find Lain Orndorff and his spray-paint booth to my left, which was satisfying because I now had someone else to help. We began selling, and my group expanded when friends from across MBA joined me, but the highlight was my partner's bright red morph suit which attracted more people than the actual clothes. During the event, artists and booth workers were blessed with free drinks which made the experience all the much better.

Sadly, I had to leave the event less than halfway through to go to my aunt's wedding, but I fully enjoyed my time at Endada. The booth was fun, and the people were better. If you are considering a booth, it's worth the pain, also there's monetary gain, so if friends and fun aren't your thing, still do it.

## Endada, Live Stage Entertainment

By Middleton Henry

Besides the booths of artwork and hands-on activities, Endada also encompasses a variety of live entertainment under two tented outdoor stages in Sloan Quad, the indoor Paschall Theater, and the Gibbs Room. In the Davis Building, there were three different types of live entertainment. In the Gibbs Room there were two improv acts lasting about forty-five minutes, each performed by the Improv Club and called the Big Red Mechanicals Improv. The students were quick on their feet and funny as they only had moments to come up with their next line. The audience participated by giving ideas of what they had to perform in each of the different games. As you walked down the hallway, there was a man gluing a mask of the Night King from Games of Thrones onto a bald man. The guy gluing said it took an hour and a half to face paint and glue the mask parts

on the model. The model said it was not hot but a little tight. Then, as you left that area, you went to the Paschall Theater which was dark with moving lights on the backdrop. This was the "Constellation" where your movement formed an object on the screen. Your object made a unique sound as well. Six people could do this activity at the same time.

Heading outside, you walked by combat fighting which contrasted with the poetry reading that was on the stage in front of Ball Building. The music lineup under the two tents was Just a Dot (Chris Coburn), Southern Word, Cage Parrish, Aaron Tornquist, Zhugubuwoos, Henry Brothers, Sunroom, Max King, and Unit 14. As I learned last year as a performer, the outdoor stages rotate performances. Each group or individual performs for thirty minutes and when that person or group ends the other stage of performers immediately goes into their set. The crowd will move to the

other tent as the music takes them there. It feels like a battle of the bands. I was lucky to perform last year, and this year with my brother joined the duo, forming the "Henry Bros." On stage I could see the group in front of me on the four gigantic bean bags, little kids running through with ice cream being chased by their parents, grandparents in chairs, cheerleaders painting faces, a graffiti artist painting on a board, and people just walking, eating, talking and stopping too. It was a warm sunny day, and it felt lively and joyful. When you go to Endada, you can do the hands-on activities, or next year you step it up a notch and audition to perform in a band, or have your own booth and sell your artwork. There were over 47 student volunteers under Ms. Hollifield's guidance to help organize this event. It takes a lot of bake sales to help with costs. You can also just come back, relax, and explore the art and music at Endada.

# Junior High Chess State Champs Again!

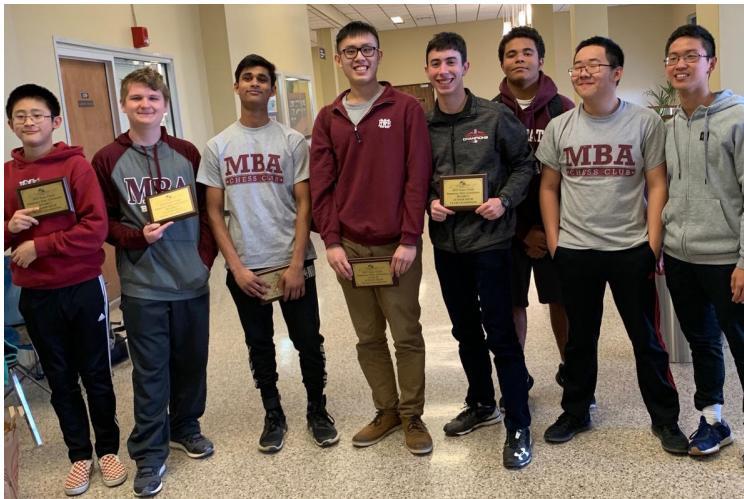
By Middleton Henry

For the last two years, chess has been offered as a Winter II sport for the junior school. Lucas Pao, a senior, has been teaching chess to the seventh- and eighth-graders after school for their sport in Mrs. Roberts' room. The high school offers chess as a club which meets every Tuesday during break in Mr. Davidson's room. Both junior school and high school students can enjoy open chess in club. Individuals from both the club and the sport are encouraged to play in chess tournaments.

The season started with an individual regionals tournament at Saint Paul which is a big leap for five beginners in chess. This is high competition tournament. Owen Henderson earned his first unrated trophy at his first tournament. In the Junior High section, ninth grader Dhruv Chandra tied for fifth place in our region, qualifying him for the state championship. Noah Perry and Middleton Henry tied for eighth place in our region. Only the top six advance to compete in the individual state competition. Someone dropped out so Noah was able to advance to state. Dhruv Chandra eventually won first in our state.

The next tournament was held at MBA where Gabriel Young won first and Edwards Settle won third in the unrated section while Middleton Henry placed as the top overall MBA player on the team. The tournament raised \$733 and donated the money towards chess sets for the underprivileged through the Nashville Chess Center.

In late February at Percy Priest, MBA earned second place. Team members included Noah Perry, Middleton Henry, Sanji Geevarghese, Owen Henderson, Sam Brown, Tommy Carson, Felix Arwen, Alex Barnard, Gabriel Young, and Nathaniel



*The MBA Chess Team with Coach Lucas Pao (center)*

Berman.

The State Team qualifier was the next week and the frontmen for MBA's Junior High Team consisted of Dhruv Chandra ('22) in the first seat, Bill Ouyang ('22) in the second, Michael Kong ('24) in the third, Middleton Henry ('23) in the fourth, and Noah Perry ('23) as an alternate. Junior High is actually seventh-through-ninth grades, but we had just eighth- and ninth-graders on the MBA team. It was difficult as the flu hit hard in the junior school the day prior to the qualifier dozens, and dozens of kids went home sick. During the tournament the two eighth-graders became ill and the team still pulled out first place in Region III, Middle Tennessee area. The high school team also qualified for state tournament as well.

The State Chess Tournament took place during spring break. The high school team and junior high team boards are organized by the individuals ratings. A couple of teams switched around their order which was not allowed last year. Rules must have changed this year. The junior high boards were: Dhruv Chandra (board one), Bill Ouyang (board two), Michael Kong (board three), Middleton Henry (board four), and Noah Perry (alternate).

The tournament held four rounds for each team, and each game can go on for hours. Our team won three-and-a-half out of four points, leaving us tied with White Station. Oh no! We had tied with White Station, the team we had the most difficult games with that day! It had been hours of chess, and now we have a rematch. We have to have three boards out of four to win the final match and win the state. In the fast-paced game of ten minutes, you

have to remember to quickly hit the clock after your move. Also, if you accidentally make an illegal move, then that board is a loss. The clock has a delay which is helpful. So they separated the champs table from the rest, and the crowd hovered over our shoulder. The other team drew the pawn, and it was white. Our first board would be black and rotates after that. The game began.

Dhruv was playing on the high school team as well, and the proctor of the tournament said we could not wait for him to complete that game. It was very stressful, as you can imagine. Dhruv had to play two games at the same time, running from his slow game in high school to the fast-paced junior high playoff game. The first board game ended and the proctor, Chris Prosser, shouted, "Board one MBA wins." Then there was a quiet pause for a few minutes, and he said, "Board two MBA wins." Each time he announced loudly, my heart jumped and then raced. I think everyone felt the same. Next, Mr. Prosser was overlooking board three and my board, which is board four. It was quiet, and then he shouted, "Board four wins, and MBA is the state champs." It was unbelievable. We won first place in junior high again this year. It is a great feeling being on these teams. And we also won High school level too. State Chess Champs is an awesome feeling.

We celebrated with a great banquet knowing that the future for chess at MBA is bright. As Lucas prepares to graduate from MBA this month, he has energized the chess program and put a system in place. He has regularly met with new officers Alex Kalams and Tanuj Koli as HS Club Co-Presidents, Colin Tang as HS Club Treasurer, Middleton Henry as HS Club Secretary, Dhruv Chandra as HS/JH Team Captain, and seventh-grader Jax Leisure as JS Club Rep (most enthusiastic player). There are plans for monthly tournaments within the chess club as well as new fundraising ideas. The chess team has been first place for two years so let's keep the momentum rolling. Checkmate!

# Writers' Corner



## “Crimson Dawn” (Excerpt Continued)

By Chase Thor

Lunch rolled around, so I tossed my bag up and rolled through my hole under the fence. I caught my bag perfectly, slung it over one shoulder and quickly unchained my bike. I reached the coffee shop in record time, but the tarp was gone. The blue plastic tarp that had protected my bike for one and a half semesters was gone! I decided to lock my bike to the rear stairs of The Corner Coffee Shoppe and made my way into the kitchen. Same prank, same lunch, same drink; I really never did change besides for how I drank my Red Bull and how much. I went to go sit in my regular seat, but the door to the small library was locked, so I opted to sit in the main diner. Immediately, I realised my mistake and cursed myself for it. Two of the school guards sat at the table nearest to the door. I looked down at myself, beginning to realise that I had on full uniform, then looked at the guards, who had stood up and were glaring at me. I ran through the kitchen, pots and pans clattering to the floor in my wake along with a pained grunt. I looked back and saw one guard, passed out on the floor. One down, one to go. I crashed through the back door, but I was suddenly thrown to the ground. The third guard rolled me over and tightened plastic cuffs around my wrists. My semi-limp body was dragged into a Land Rover with the academy logo painted on the side. We arrived at the grey cement gates of the school and were let in by the guard in the tower to the left. We drove up to the dean's office, and I was again dragged through the door and into the dean's office. Her name was Olga Williamson. She wore large glasses and had short blonde hair, slightly curled at the end. Sitting in her late fifties to early sixties, her facial features began to sink and her waist was starting to grow from lack of exercise and healthy eating. The guards removed my jacket and patted me down. From the coat, they removed a phone and earbuds. Guard number one slipped his hand into the pocket where the flask was hidden. The muscles in his wrist seemed to contract as if his fingers had grasped something. I stared at his hand came out... empty. I thought back to the last five minutes. The flask must have fallen out in the kitchen of the coffee house. In the middle of this thought, guard number two came in nursing a large, bloody bump on his head.

“You holding up well?” I inquired sarcastically.

The dean looked me in the eyes. “What were you thinking?”

I stared straight back. “I was thinking that the lunch at the coffee house was much better than the garbage that you get here. Plus, I get some biking in, which serves as good exercise. Also, the maneuver that I used to get out of the compound does improve my hand-eye coordination, reflexes, and espionage skills. I think that pretty much sums it up,” I replied. Olga looked me straight in the eyes.

“Not funny.”

“Wasn’t supposed to be,” I stated with a sarcastic smirk.

“Eyesight precautions for one month.”

My mouth must have fallen open slightly because a small smile appeared at the corners of the dean's mouth. Eyesight precautions meant that a guard had to accompany me everywhere I went, this time for one month. Back to prosciutto and aioli sandwiches, I thought. Guard one escorted me out of the room and into the lobby, from where we travelled to my sixth-period class.



# Democratic Candidate Leaders in Polls

By Charlie Murff

Joe Biden - So far the former Vice President is leading the Democratic polls amidst scandals. He has been in politics for nearly 50 years so it is safe to say that he is the most experienced of the candidates. Although his age, which is four years older than the current president, might be an issue in the campaign, he is still seen by many Democrats as a viable candidate to take down Donald Trump.

Bernie Sanders - Second in the polls is the senator from Vermont: Bernie Sanders. He classifies himself as a Democratic Socialist. He contended against Hillary Clinton in 2016 which helped him make a name for himself nationally. Similar to Joe, Bernie has been in politics for more than 35 years, starting as a mayor in Vermont. Though second in the polls, he is nearly as likely to win the presidency as Joe Biden.

Elizabeth Warren - Though not as experienced as the two previous candidates, she still is an extremely smart and qualified. The idea that her campaign is built on is that hard work pays off and that billionaires need to be restricted. Though not very likely to win the presidential ballot, she should not be counted out of the running.



Kamala Harris - Harris, as a child of two immigrants, seems to be one of the most influential candidates in this debate. Harris is very influenced by her roots as a lawyer. She may not be the first candidate, but she has loyal supporters who can be helpful to any candidate.

Pete Buttigieg - The youngest of the candidates and the Mayor of South Bend, Pete Buttigieg, is gaining serious traction. Before he announced, he was relatively unknown, but now he seems to be gaining more and more votes every day by being the polar opposite of the current president. He may not win this election, but more than likely he will win the presidency in the future.

Beto O'Rourke - Similar to Pete, he was also relatively unknown before last year when he ran against the Republican 2016 candidate Ted Cruz. He seems to be a viable candidate for the more centrist Democrats with his more middle-of-the-political-spectrum views.

## OTHER CANDIDATES --

Sen. Michael Bennet, Rep. Seth Moulton, Rep. Eric Swalwell, Rep. Tim Ryan, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Gov. John Hickenlooper, Gov. Jay Inslee, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Mayor Julian Castro, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Rep. John Delaney, Wayne Messam, Marianne Williamson, Andrew Yang.





# Republican Candidates: Does Anyone Challenge Trump?



By Luke Kim

Let's just get to the point: Trump IS the main contender. Bill Weld, in all due respect, is out of his league. Trump is the incumbent with a good economy--he's the nominee. But how could the GOP even win again? Will the Blue Wave sweep the Oval Office? Maybe, so let me tell you how I think the GOP can destroy the Dems. The first and biggest thing to get out of the way: the incumbency. Being in office has done a lot for Trump. He has been a very controversial figure and successful in the process of what I call the "extremist syndrome" which



*President Donald Trump and Republican Candidate Bill Weld*

means that Trump, being a new farther-right element, has over time changed what people see as normal or centrist. I mean, CNBC is showing Republicans to face-off against Trumpians. Trump is not as controversial as he was in 2016. Trump has also satisfied his supporters. Many say he has accomplished his goals, and their ballots are ready for 2020.

Next, the economy. We are sustaining very high and steady growth, and unemployment is going down. These are major indicators that an incumbent will win. Some economic predictors have Trump coming back for another four years in landslides,

especially with the end of the trade war. Trump has made himself a martyr for big business and growth, and whether you look at Trump or Obama era policies, Trump's getting the clout.

Finally, everything else. Trump is making controversial statements every day, and people say that would be easy to exploit, but what about the Dems' candidate? If Trump just steers clear of any more controversy or harnesses it, he could decimate any Democratic candidate. Now imagine a Trump, able to easily retort the old dark secrets of his, against a Democratic candidate that has his or her new dark secrets. Trump will say something about it no matter how hypocritical it could be, depending on what secrets the Dem candidate has. I mean, have you seen what he's said about WikiLeaks? He will find a way to make this his election.

Trump, no matter how unlikely it seems, has a chance to surf this Blue Wave and turn it red. Trump is the GOP candidate and this is why, because the US is making bank; he's already the President, and the Democratic candidate could be bad too. Trump can make it, but I can't emphasize enough that Trump needs to either ramp it up and keep anyone voting for him right now, or just chill where he is. GLHF, President Trump. WP.

# Notre Dame

## History

By Harrison Zoller

*“For me, the reason why people go to a mountaintop or go to the edge of the ocean is to look at something larger than themselves. That feeling of awe, of going to a cathedral, it’s all about feeling lost in something bigger than oneself. To me, that’s the definition of spectacle.”*

-Diane Paulus-

Within France is gravity-defying piece of architecture which has now stood towering over the city of Paris for nearly a millennium: the Notre Dame De Paris. There are truly no words which can properly describe the cathedral; however, I believe that Diane Paulus' opinion on cathedrals in general equates to the Notre Dame. With its (once) highest spire reaching three-hundred feet into the atmosphere, and its area covering 1.5 acres of land, the cathedral is spectacular. Such a building did not take less than a decade to construct, nor less than a century, but instead close to two centuries from the beginning of construction to its completion.

In 1160, Bishop Maurice de Sully became filled with awe upon seeing the Basilica of Saint-Denis being built; and so in France, he brought public attention towards the idea of constructing a new cathedral by “converting into a single building, on a larger scale, the ruins of the two earlier basilicas” (Britannica.com). Three years later on the eastern portion of Île



*The Cathedral prior to the spire*



*The present Notre Dame Cathedral - prior to its burning*

de la Cité--an island in the center of the Seine river--Pope Alexander III laid the foundation stone on what would now be the Notre Dame. And the initiation of the project could not have been at a better time. National Geography states that at the time, “Paris was the center of an emerging new European power”.

The wealth the city of Paris possessed led to the cathedral's receiving all the necessary funding.

The building of the Notre Dame became a lifelong project for Sully, in which he would monitor

the progress of the construction until his death. The first milestone came with the consecration of the high altar “in 1182, under the reign of the new king, Philip II”(National Geography). The first mass to take place in the cathedral occurred in the same year which Sully would be able to celebrate. However, he would not see the final product as it would be another 150 years

before the “main structures of the cathedral would be finished in the 1300s” (National Geography). The final touches would also take place in the 1300s which would be put into place by Jean Ravy who would utilize a new gothic innovation on the Notre Dame, the flying buttress. The braces extending from the roof and walls allowed the “force imposed by the high ceiling to be transferred to the exterior, thereby leaving the interior walls clear of supports and enhancing the building’s majesty and grace” (National Geography). In 1345 the main body of the cathedral would be declared completed, and besides the periodic renovations, the Notre Dame stands as it stood since that declaration.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/archaeology-and-history/magazine/2017/05-06/notre-dame-de-paris/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Notre-Dame-de-Paris>



*The Famous Notre Dame Cathedral West Front*

# Fire Ravages an Icon: Notre Dame Cathedral

By Andy Nunn

At 6:20 pm in Paris, France on April 15, 2019, the Notre Dame Cathedral caught fire. The fire raged on for 15 hours and collapsed the spire of the cathedral. The cause of the fire is believed to be a



*Firefighters work to save the wooden structures.*

construction accident, but the true cause is yet to be found. The Notre Dame Cathedral receives between 12 million and 14 million visitors each year! That is about the same number of people that live in South Sudan or Somalia! The cross of the cathedral and Jesus Christ's Crown of Thorns were saved, but the conditions of the True Cross of Jesus Christ and the True Nails of the Cross are still unknown. This event is not only a massive loss for the Roman Catholic Church, but also a significant loss for the world.

The Notre Dame is considered to be one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world, and it is one of the oldest ancient



GEOFFROY VAN DER HASSELT/HANDOUT/GETTY IMAGES

*The famous wooden spire of Notre Dame collapses in the fire.*

medieval buildings to still stand, but because it burned, the world has suffered a massive historical loss. One of the impacts it had on the Catholic Church is that the Crown of Thorns of Jesus Christ was saved. Because the Crown of Thorns was saved, the people who come to the church during the Lenten season have a chance to continue to venerate it. In addition, the city plans of Paris and some

other cities in France are said to have been in the cellar of the church in a safe at the time of the burning, but the condition of these plans is still unknown. Also, the Tunic of St. Louis, who took part in the Crusades and secured the Crown of Thorns for France, is safe, which is a relief for the French because he played such a big part in their history. Also, twelve statues representing

the Twelve Apostles and four more statues, which resembled the Evangelists, were airlifted from their site, which was extremely close to the burning spire.

In summary, the burning of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is not only a huge loss for the Catholic church even though many of its relics are still safe, but also an "eye-opener" for the whole world to realize that we need to cherish our historical landmarks, and we need to use them to the best of their potential.

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/population-by-country/>  
<https://www.thelocal.fr/20190415/14-million-visitors-a-year>  
<http://caribbeanfever>.



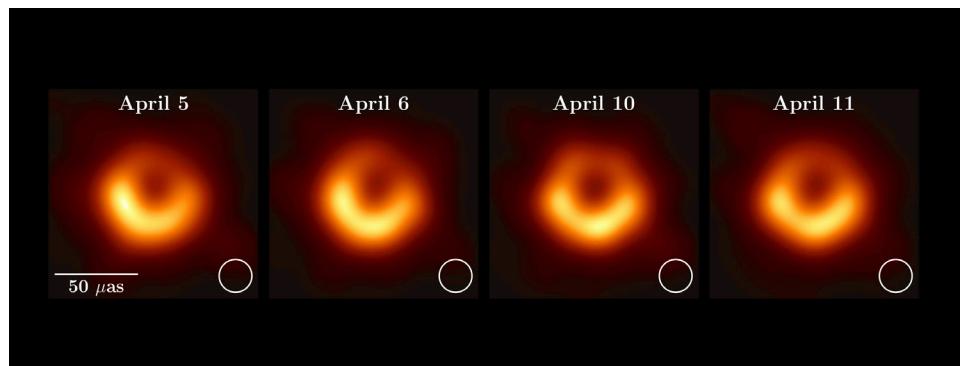
*The interior of the church the morning after the fire*

# First Ever Photo of a Black Hole

By Middleton Henry

After a decade of persistence, the first picture of a black hole was released in April 2019. This black hole is located 53 million light-years away. Through the years many scientists have believed taking a picture would be impossible. The uncanny gravity created by the black hole would absorb everything near it, including light. You might ask, how do you capture a picture of a hole when a hole is black and full of darkness? Since jets of gases and radiation surround the black hole, the plan was to capture a photo of its silhouette. An extensive amount of effort and number of people worked on this for a decade.

The team, which was not really a team of photographers but a team of telescopes and scientists, is called Event Horizon Telescope, or EHT for short. Ironically, or cleverly, the EHT named themselves after “event horizon,” which is a term to describe the outer area surrounding a black hole. This outer area comprises the point where an individual would be stretched by the gravity like a long noodle, called “spaghettification.” The EHT was not stretched into a noodle because they do not dare approach a black hole this close. The team actually used eight telescopes from across the world in North America, Hawaii, Europe, South America and the South Pole with the largest apertures to capture the most



*Sequenced Photos of the Black Hole by the Event Horizon Telescope*

amount of light possible. The largest is Chile's, which is bigger than a football field. The event horizon boundary is also what was captured in the photo by the scientists. The real challenge was syncing all of the telescopes on the same spot at the same time without space pollution or weather interfering. Rain and snow were problems. After eight days the data from all of the stations reached a total of five petabytes (1,000,000 Gigabytes), and then it took two years to render the image. Is there a name for this black hole? Black holes are usually named after the galaxy they are in. For example, EHT called this black hole M87\* because it is in galaxy Messier 87. A Hawaiian professor has come up with a title that is not official but is fitting. He decided to call it “Powehi,” which is a Hawaiian word meaning “the adorned fathomless dark creation”.

There are many black holes in space, so why this one? Many people believe that it would be the closest black hole, which is untrue. Sagittarius A\* is only 25,000 light years away, while M87 is 53 million light-years away. The distance is actually an advantage. It gave scientist a fixed direction to aim telescopes as closer black holes would move around in the sky. Also, the gas that M87 is absorbing makes the black hole more obvious.

Black holes were theories but were never witnessed till now. It is believed that black holes are created when a star contains too much energy for its size. The star releases some of this pent-up energy through a supernova explosion while the rest of the star collapses inward to create a relatively miniature black hole. A black hole has two parts: a singularity (center) with a near infinite density and gravitational pull, and the event horizon (border) where light can no longer escape. The black hole proves Einstein's theory of relativity and demonstrates our current understanding of space is correct.

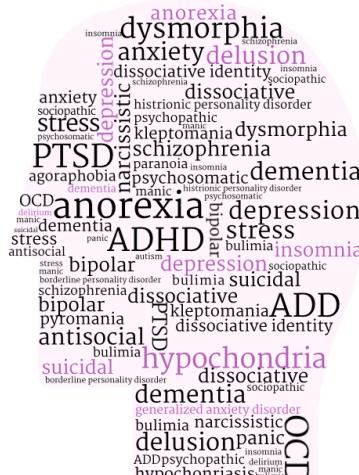
What is so fascinating about a black hole is how time is processed in a black hole. As objects move towards a black hole they appear to slow down from our view back on earth. Actually, the object is pulled by the strong gravity which moves the object faster. Objects seem to take an infinite amount of time to reach the event horizon. Nothing travels faster than light, so if you shine a light into the black hole you would not see the light. The effect is called gravitational time dilation. This discovery makes you to question if time travel is possible. This photographic evidence of a black hole's existence is absolutely fascinating, and makes me think of Dr. Who and his adventures.

# The Romanticization of Mental Illness in Today's Media

By Luke Kim

After the premiere of *13 Reasons Why*, the teenage suicide rate increased by 28.9%, and the show was met with heavy criticism of its portrayal of mental illness. *13 Reasons Why* isn't the only place where mental illness is becoming romanticized, so how did we get to this point? With mental health spreading across pop culture along with a lot more conversation on the topic, we've made advances; but as usual, advancements can be exploited. Are artists and corporations jumping on the bandwagon and what does that mean for the mental illness conversation?

Mental health used to be a taboo topic that no one would touch, and when it was, the treatment could be classified as a cruel and unusual punishment. But why is it all over pop culture? Over time, the public's opinion of how mental health has changed from what we saw in the past into a more inclusive and accepting environment. This change allowed the quite common and important issue to gain traction as most everyone can relate to the intensity and feelings that come with the issue. More recently, however, we see mental illness become a trend due to popular figures like artists, actors, and influencers being more open about their mental health issues. Self-diagnoses, overreactions, and psychogenic mental illnesses came from the popularization of mental health. Some fall in the mentioned categories for reasons other than "it's trendy." Some people self-diagnose or embellish because they seek attention or think that they can find community through their illnesses. This has been exploited by artists and companies who sell music "for those



who cry" and shirts that have the Google definition of anxiety on them. Not only is using other's unfortunate condition for monetary gain immoral, but it also increases the "trendy" crowd. The reason I mention the "trendy crowd" so much is because it hurts them and diffuses the seriousness of mental health by making it a tool for popularity or attention. When I mention psychogenic mental illness, I mean people who act as if they are of a certain condition, which could lead to a development of that condition. At the same time, many are classified as such when they really are facing a serious issue, and that too is something to worry about, because slightly depressed is no less depressed than anyone else.

But isn't it better that we have this conversation about mental illness? Well yes, but not when depictions are incorrect. This is where things like *13 Reasons Why* get heat for truly romanticizing the issue. The main concept of the show revolves around Hannah's committing suicide and leaving 13 cassette tapes to describe all the honestly horrible stuff that happened to her. The reason this is problematic is the way the show follows through by showing Hannah back, communicating with other characters and seeing the revenge she got for what

happened. The show also depends on someone's mental illness to characterize her which reveals dependence on a clinical diagnosis for one's identity. One of these one-dimensional characters is Skye, who at one point promotes self-harm for those who are suicidal but don't want to die. Hopefully, I don't have to tell you why these falsified ideas of mental illness being portrayed are bad. In just one show, characters promote self-harm as an alternative to suicide and suicide as revenge for those who have hurt you to their impressionable adolescent audience. And this too influences their audience to self-deprecate or make memes about these topics, not respect them. These jokes can lead to, again, the lessening of the importance of mental health issues. And I can't overstate how much these kinds of actions and intentions can hurt people our age. Many of our peers suffer from mental illnesses, especially with that whole puberty thing, we are susceptible to these kinds of media becoming quick to make bad decisions.

Well, if the old approach was bad, and the current is failing, how do we portray mental illness in a way where we can have conversations but not have it become exploited or trendy? If I had the Infinity Gauntlet, one of the issues I would address would be mental health, but it's a lot harder than that. Changing the way we think and act about mental health is a challenging issue because there will always be someone trying to get us or romanticize it.

A lot of people suffer from mental illness, so we should have a society where we can be safe to have the conversations we need to help, but we also need to keep it from going overboard. The way we should think of mental health is by keeping the importance of mental health at the forefront of our minds and so too, the threshold. The environment around mental illness has been exploited by people. What we need to do is to respect the true importance of mental health, no matter how small. Also

*Continued on page 18*

*Continued from page 17*

entertainment, from TV to *YouTube* to *Juice Wrld*, should think, am I spreading awareness about mental illnesses, or am I romanticizing it? But mental health is a shaky string bridge to walk across. During the writing of this article many things were brought to my attention that I would've overlooked. Those kinds of things are difficult to avoid on such a hard-hitting topic, and so in this "perfect" society, people need to be careful about the subject. We can also stop many of those people labeled as "attention seekers." If someone

sits alone at lunch or is bullied, say something. The small things matter and, if not properly handled, can launch someone down the harsh, winding road of mental illness.

The current portrayal of mental health in media is appalling and sets a horrible precedent to those who take it in. From low self-confidence to suicide, romanticizing mental illness has serious effects and needs to go. This romanticization is so common, I bet you've heard it on the radio from Lil Uzi Vert to Post Malone, and the fact it is so common is disappointing. If you suffer from mental illness, these expressions

can intensify harsh emotions, and if you don't, it can point you in this direction.

Hopefully, we can learn to spread awareness about the issue and not make it something that people want to be identified as. Let's stop jokes and memes about the matter and treat it how it needs to be treated: with respect for all those who suffer or have suffered from mental illnesses.

## Shazam Review

By Carter Ozburn

The movie you have all been waiting for, DC's last ray of hope, is finally here. *Shazam* is a heartfelt comedic film making fun of all superhero movies past and present. This entertaining, funny movie covers up its obscure plot with short scenes poking fun at the 14-year old superhero. The movie begins in 1974 in an obscure part of New York. A dad and his two sons are driving through the countryside. Then, his youngest is whisked away to a magical temple in another dimension. There, a wizard tells him that he will never be good enough and sends him back into reality. After he comes to, the car spins out and is hit, sending his dad through the windshield. His dad is paralyzed from the legs down. Then, in present day, a young boy named Billy Batson captures police to find an address. The audience then knows that Billy is looking for his mom, and the police can't keep him at



the same foster home for long. He arrives at his next foster home: a large house with five other foster kids. Meanwhile, the adult youngest son Sivana finally finds his way back into the wizard's temple. He then takes the Eye of Sin, releasing all of the Seven Deadly Sins into the world with Sivana as their champion. After defending his roommate from bullies, Billy takes the opportunity and hops on the subway, away from that foster home. Billy is whisked away to the wizard's temple and given all of the powers of the wizard. He then becomes a grown man with tons of powers, later tested by Thomas, his avid superhero-loving roommate. Shazam becomes famous for stopping common criminals until Sivana kills his dad and older brother and takes control of their company. The sins tell him only one is stronger than he is, and Sivana sets out to find Billy. Sivana completely destroys Billy at first, and Billy escapes

and lives in fear of his return. Sivana discovers Billy's secret and abducts Thomas to find him. Billy comes home to find that the foster kids know who he really is and find his mother. His mother tells him that she abandoned him because she was a single mom with a husband in jail. Billy doesn't have time to think because Sivana just shows up at his house and is holding all the foster family hostage. Shazam is forced to lead him to the wizard's staff, and the foster kids retaliate against Shazam. Sivana chases Billy and the kids to a carnival, and Billy discovers that Sivana gets weaker when all of the sins leave his body. He also realizes the staff can give others special powers and turns all of his fellow foster kids into superheroes. They draw out the sins and eventually send them all back into the Eye of Sin. Billy and his family take it to the wizard's temple and realize that the temple can be their new lair. Billy pulls the ultimate surprise when Superman shows up and sits next to Thomas. I am not even going to talk about the end credits scene--it was horrendous. It involved an evil talking caterpillar.

Overall, I thought it was an imaginative and fun movie that ultimately made fun of what makes a superhero movie a superhero movie. Yet with its obscure plot and horrible special effects, its final rating is 8.5/10.

# WHAT MAKES A GREAT MOVIE?

## What Makes a Good Movie? Character Edition

By Jack Forbes

A lovable character can sometimes mean the difference between a well-enjoyed movie or a boring movie. There are many reasons as to why this phenomena happens. One subset is the traits and abilities of the characters in the movies. Another subset is the circumstances in which these traits appear, and to quite an extent, the two are connected. In addition to a good plot, character traits such as being humorous, intense, calm, collected, and angry, as well as a wide variety of abilities, preferably those not exactly human (but not necessarily), make a character interesting and by proxy, the movie interesting. Let us begin with some examples. There are a wide variety of movies to choose from, but I am going to choose almost all the characters in *Marvel's Infinity War* who were funny at some point. Not only does this somewhat lighten the mood, but it also allows the viewer to make a connection with the character. This is not only important in order to keep interest in the movie and arouse reactions when something happens to that character, but it also keeps you coming back to the series. I may

think that one movie may have a good plot, but how do I know the next will have a good plot? I don't. The only thing I can count on is the characters. Superhero movies in general draw an audience, because one: they transport you to a different world; two: they typically have incredible fight scenes; and three: the characters are in the right place. Have you ever stopped to think about why you love superheros in movies so much, but then you see a forty-five-year-old man pretending to be Batman while running around yelling, "I am Batman," and cringe? The character generally has to be put into circumstances that depict him/her as heroic. This task can typically be accomplished through the use of special effects, superhuman feats, and a situation in which they actually encounter a struggle except in comedies, but movies based solely on comedy are far too subjective to analyze rationally. Although, there is a movie with a bit of a different standard. This movie is *John Wick*. This movie is completely normal in

the sense that the protagonist, John Wick, has the admirable traits of being calm, collected, tough, tactical, and extremely dedicated. The movie is also normal in the sense that he is put through a struggle. May I say a very large struggle. But he is atypical in how his plot mixes with his character to create a good movie. There is no plot. The plot is virtually non-existent. The character is so cool in his own right that people just like watching other characters react to his very existence. He doesn't even need to be put into a struggle either because he is just that much of a cool character. I did not believe that it was possible, but a movie with the character so good, that everything else in the movie is secondary.

While my thoughts on characters in movies and their relationship to the enjoyability probably ring true for the majority of movies (at least in my opinion), there are a subset that have characters so amazing that they do not even need action or plot.



# Virgil-Abloh and The Ten

By Harrison Zoller

## Who is Virgil-Abloh?

Born in Rockford, Illinois in 1980, Virgil Abloh can be labeled as an architect, engineer, artist, disk jockey, and most notably, as a designer. Abloh obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, then attended the Illinois Institute of Technology to acquire a Master's Degree in Architecture. "It was here that he learned not only about modernist design principles but also about the concept of multi-disciplinary working" (LouisVuitton.com). Following several years within an architecture firm, he shifted his interest to fashion. In 2009, he both founded RSVP gallery and joined Donda as creative director- Kanye West's creative agency. Three years later, Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh™ was titled under the artistic name "PYREX VISION."

Abloh's successes has allowed him to present his ideas in countless fashion shows and exhibitions. His works have been presented at by the likes of "Harvard Graduate School of Design, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and the Rhode Island School of Design" (LouisVuitton.com). Abloh's Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh™ was unsuccessful in winning the 2015 LVMG prize, but won British Fashion Awards at the 2017 GQ Men of the Year Awards - "Urban Luxe" and "International Designer of the Year".

On March 6th of 2018, Abloh was named Louis Vuitton's new men's artistic director. His first show under Louis Vuitton took place in the gardens of the Palais Royale in Paris in June. The scenery included a hand-painted rainbow-coloured runway, inspiration taken from " Wizard of Oz". Included in the attendance were close friends of Abloh, such as Kanye West and musician Kid Cudi. Tim Blanks states in a review that "The Palais Royale on Thursday



*Virgil Abloh embraces Kanye as the Palais Royale comes to a close.*

was unlike any fashion event in recent memory, with its anticipatory outpouring of goodwill. For all its scale, it felt almost like a family affair."

## What is "The Ten"

*"I wanted to underscore how the design system and manufacturing of Nike are so perfect. By combining these shoes with design that amplifies their 'handmade' quality, we're intensifying the human element and expanding the emotional connection of these 10 icons."*

-Virgil Abloh-

On August 21st 2017, Abloh and Nike announced a new collaborative project labeled as "The Ten". Since the announcement nearly eighteen months ago, the reconstruction of ten Nike icons has resulted in a revolutionized fashion industry; the purpose of a collaboration has come to question, as well as the fundamental benefits of a limited release. The project itself has caused Nike's swoosh to be cemented "at the centre of the ongoing blur between traditional fashion categories" (Endclothing.com). Sneakers have become a forefront in luxury fashion- askew the mindset in which streetwear is separated from the class of a high-fashion system. Virgil explains, "These 10 shoes have broken barriers in performance and style. To me, they are on the same level as a sculpture of David or the Mona Lisa. You can debate it all you want, but they mean something. And that's what's important."

Abloh separated the project into two themes. The first, "Revealing", was designed with the intent to look "accessible: hand-cut, open-source and reconstructed" (Nike.com). The

second, "Ghosting", was designed with "translucent uppers to further the idea of revealing and unite the second set of silhouettes through common material" (Nike.com). "Revealing" contained the: Air Jordan I, Nike Air Max 90, Nike Air Presto, Nike Air VaporMax and Nike Blazer Mid. "Ghosting" contained the: Converse Chuck Taylor, Nike Zoom Fly SP, Nike Air Force 1 Low, Nike React Hyperdunk 2017 and Nike Air Max 97. All models were personally designed by Virgil Abloh himself- either in the duration of one session or multiple.

## "The Ten"

\*Below are release dates taken from statistics on StockX.com, a majority of them being the date they were verified onto the selling platform. Other sources may present different information- as quantities were given to other countries before the United States or pairs were distributed to prominent figures before public release.\*

### Air Jordan I

Release date: 2017-09-09

Retail Compared to Most Expensive Purchase on StockX ~ \$190 : \$5,200  
The first to be released within the project, it features typography stating "AIR" on the midsole, an orange hit on the heel, and the swoosh seems to be pinned-rather than stitched. Abloh explained, "The Jordan 1 was done in one design session. I work in a very dream-like state. I see it and it's done."

### Nike Air Max 90

Release date: 2017-09-09

Retail Compared to Most Expensive Purchase on StockX ~ \$160 : \$2,000  
Similar to the original Air Max 90, although the appearance is entirely white, features "AIR" on the midsole, and an orange hit is above the swoosh.

### Nike Air Presto

Release date: 2017-09-09

Retail Compared to Most Expensive Purchase on StockX ~ \$160 : \$2,400  
Before the release, both A\$AP Nast and Frank Ocean were seen wearing a pair. The fabric is black, yet the plastic holding the laces are white. "AIR" is seen on the heel strap, as an orange hit is below the

*Continued on page 21*

Swoosh.

### Nike Air VaporMax

Release date: 2017-09-09

Retail Compared to Most Expensive

Purchase on StockX ~ \$250 : \$2,500

Having the highest retail of the ten, the

Swoosh is covering nearly all of its side

and heavy stitching can be noticed. "AIR"

and an orange hit are located around the

swoosh.

### Nike Blazer Mid

Release date: 2017-09-09

Retail Compared to Most

Expensive Purchase on

StockX ~ \$130 : \$2,500

Instead of having "AIR"

as a detail, the black

swoosh is exaggerated- it

wraps around the heel and extends to the

midsole. Abloh states, "The Swoosh logo

of that shoe overlaps the sole without it

detracting away from the iconography,

which makes it more interesting and

wearable."

### Converse Chuck Taylor

Release date: 2018-05-12

Retail Compared to Most Expensive



Purchase on StockX ~ \$130 : \$2,500

Using the original Chuck Taylor All Star basketball silhouette, the fabric is entirely transparent and the word "VULCANIZED" is printed on the midsole.

### Nike Zoom Fly SP

Release date: 2017-11-01

Retail Compared to Most Expensive

Purchase on StockX ~ \$170 : \$1,700

It's sole contains a carbon fiber plate, the fabric is entirely transparent, and "FOAM" printed onto the midsole. To prepare for the redesign, Abloh

discussed stamina, innovation, and the overlap between fashion and running with Kenyan runner Eliud Kipchoge.

### Nike Air Force 1

Release date: 2017-11-01

Retail Compared to Most Expensive

Purchase on StockX ~ \$170 : \$2,200

During the design process, Abloh used an X-Acto knife to dissect the shoes

and markers to draw on them. "In my brain, I've seen every iteration or color of an Air Force One. So where does that leave you?" Abloh questioned. "I wanted to make something that stops you from mindlessly scrolling."

### Nike React Hyperdunk

Release date: 2017-11-01

Retail Compared to Most Expensive

Purchase on StockX ~ \$200 : \$1,250

Nike states that "Abloh was inspired by the cutting-edge cushioning innovations of Breaking2's Nike Zoom Vaporfly Elite running shoe and basketball's React Hyperdunk 2017" Above the laces is a clear-plastic strap, and the typography states "FOAM".

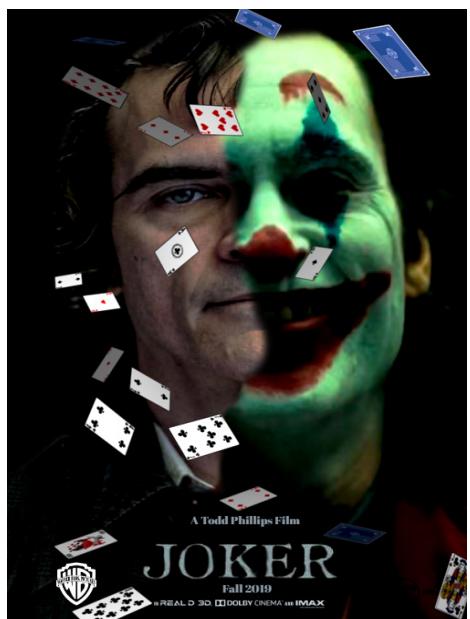
### Nike Air Max 97

Release date: 2017-11-01

Retail Compared to Most Expensive

Purchase on StockX ~ \$190 : \$2,000

With the original model being released nearly twenty-years prior to "The Ten," Abloh re-designed it with a seamless one-piece upper and a lightweight fit. Completely white besides the black "AIR" and iconic orange hit.



By William Perri

Let's be honest: when we think of superhero movies, we think of *Iron Man*, *Captain America*, and all the other MCU characters. DC hasn't been able to make it big in the movie-making business even though they have come out with movies like *Batman V,*

## Will the New *Joker* Movie Finally get DC Comics Back into the Movie Business?

*Superman*, *Aquaman*, and *Justice League* which are almost the exact same idea of the popular *Avengers* and *Captain America: Civil War* movies. The reason these DC movies are bland is because the characters in them aren't built up enough, and they seem to just be thrown into the mix of characters. All of this may change, however, when

they release *Joaquin Phoenix as "The Joker"* the Joaquin Phoenix's version of *The Joker* because if you start with a backstory to your



main character, you can develop them to the liking of the audience watching the films. This is what Marvel did with *Captain America* and *Iron Man*.

I have high hopes for this movie, and I think Joaquin Phoenix is the perfect fit to bring a new interpretation to the great DC Comics supervillain. If he can pull this position off, this film could bring DC back into the movie business. I think this movie is a great idea, and even though it may not have the talent that Heath Ledger brought to the table in *The Dark Knight*, I think it can make the Joker its own series and can open up a whole new franchise of supervillain movies.

# Us Review

By Reed Sullivan

## \*WARNING SPOILERS AHEAD\*

### Background

Jordan Peele, one of the world's most famous comedians has recently joined the horror movie game starting with his 2017 hit, *Get Out* which was one of the best movies of 2017, getting a 98% on *Rotten Tomatoes* and even won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. With this much praise for his first movie, it was no shock that everyone got extremely excited when his second film, *Us*, was announced. The idea for the movie is that the Wilsons are at their lake house and then out of nowhere, a family that looks almost

exactly like them shows up and begins to mentally and physically torture them to the point that they try to kill them. These other people known as "The Tethered" are wearing red jumpsuits, with leather gloves and their only weapon being a pair of gold colored scissors. With this idea, Jordan Peele attempts an interesting take on the typical home intruder horror movie and I think that it payed off in some ways but in others it could have been better.

### Trailer Breakdown

Unfortunately, I think that this movie is one of those movies in which the trailer is made so well that once people actually see the movie they might be disappointed, and from what I've gathered about the movie this is generally the way that people feel about it. The trailer opens with us, the person watching it, getting a scene of the Wilsons, a middle-to-upper class African-American family in their car driving to their lake/beach house (as it is on a lake near a beach). While in the car the 90's West Coast Hip Hop song, "I Got 5 on It" plays. In an interview with Jordan Peele, he said that this song had influenced him in this movie as when he was a kid this song had always frightened

him because of the "ominous" beat in the background. While the song is playing the mother, Adelaide, tells the boy to "get in the rhythm." Adelaide's snap is actually the first foreshadowing of the movie that. Later in the trailer we get a part of a scene in which the Wilson family is at the beach, and the youngest son goes to the bathroom and ends up seeing a man very similar in appearance to the other tethered who is standing with his arms stretched out as if he is waiting to hold something. Throughout the rest of the trailers we see little bits of some of the most tense scenes in the film, such as my favorite line in the film, "If you wanna get crazy, we can get crazy," which takes place when Gabe Wilson played by Winston Duke first encounters "The Tethered" in the driveway of their vacation home. As previously said, this is one of those movies in which the trailer is made so well that when you actually see the movie you might be a little let down.

### What are the "tethered"

The tethered are the creatures that are the main antagonists of the movie. These people are first introduced in the scene with Gabe in the driveway. When we first see them they just look like an average family of four from far away. Once they get closer however we learn what they actually look like. The "tethered" are almost exact copies of the Wilson family but very slight differences. An example of this is how Lupita Nyong'o's characters, Adelaide and Red, are only different in their voices, and that Red has hair that is more up, while Adelaide has hair that is down and stringy. These are the slight differences that we see in the others. One other main characteristics of these people are their clothing. The tethered are all wearing red jumpsuits accompanied by leather gloves on only one hand and a large pair of bronze scissors for a weapon. This is yet another plot hole that is left undiscovered because it is never told why the tethered have access to these. The only reason that could possibly work could be the separating of the two with the scissors. This brings up the motive of the others, from what is seen in the movie, it is learned that the whole point of the tethered is to kill their counterpart as to make themselves the only one. As for what I think of these characters, they are

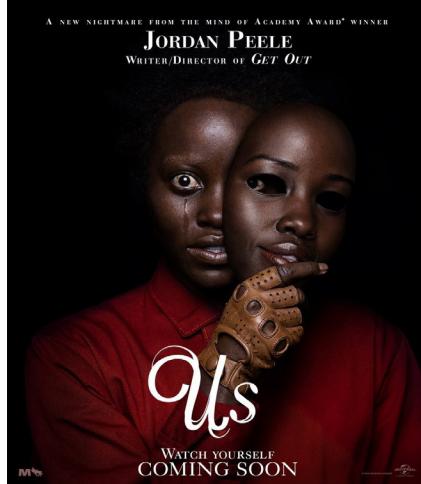
perfect for the movie given their creepy yet creative look.

### Twists of the Movie

In the movie there are two huge events at the end of the movie which tries to tie up the movie in a sort of sloppy way. One problem I have with the movie is that they try to wrap up the movie rather quickly, and they don't really elaborate what they revealed. So anyway, throughout the movie we learn that it turns out that the Wilsons aren't the only people with exact copies but rather everyone in the US has a copy. This is one of those choices in which I was not too fond of because I think that if only one family has a copy it makes it feel more personal and that the "others" only want the Wilsons. So anyway, the first major twist is that the copies actually come from an underground bunker in which they were made by the US government. The hopes of the others were to control the people above because they are connected but because they were unsuccessful, they were left for dead with nothing but live rabbits to feed off of. I feel like this twist was very interesting, but left many plot holes. For example, in the movie we see that in the bunkers they have limited space and are not connected to the other bunker, and as I previously mentioned, the others "copy" the people above them in the way that they act and where they go. This could create major problems when a person were to go on a plane or even travel in a car everyday. Either way I think that this twist was alright, it helped wrap up the movie, but they could have explored this idea a little bit more. As for the other twist, we find out later in the movie that the main character, Adelaide, was actually from the tethered and that Red, was the original Adelaide. This was one of my favorite parts of the movie because they explained how it happened well and it helped understand how the tethered gained so much information on how to attack.

### Overall thought

Overall, this movie was pretty solid, it had a couple problems with plot holes, but it was pretty good. Although this is classified as a horror movie, I would not say that it was that scary. Although this was not extremely scary, I was still happy that Jordan Peele did not choose to go with cheap jump-scares, but rather have the movie get partially creepy and scary in long times after building up. This movie was very alright in my book and I would rate it a 8.3/10.



# Avengers Endgame: Review

By Alex Deerkoski

**WARNING: SPOILERS**



## *Avengers: Endgame.*

That is all that needs to be said. It is arguably the most anticipated movie of all time. On its opening weekend, it made \$350 million in the United States and \$1.2 billion globally. The only question: does it live up to all the EXTREMELY high expectations of all the viewers? I would say that the answer is a strong YES. Marvel and the Russos did it. It is the culmination of twenty-two movies, all leading up to this movie. It should not have worked, but it did. I will now give a general runthrough of what I thought of the movie.

At the beginning, everything is bleak as you witness up-close the death of Hawkeye's family. The movie continues to reveal how the situation is with the rest of the characters, and it gets the viewer excited right from the beginning. Once everyone arrives back on Earth, they go to where Thanos is and, well, kill him, right out of the gate. Half-an-hour in, and the story is already throwing surprises at you, which is why the scene works. Then, the movie continues to show how all the characters are still after Thanos' finger snap five years later. They all feel that there is something to be desired, something that has to be done. In short, the brief period of time before the time travel scenes are funny, which is what surprised me. The movie, to me, was hilarious.

Professor Hulk and the large and lazy version of Thor were good surprises to me. However, when the movie starts going into the second hour, that is where it began to get slightly boring to me. The first *Avengers* is entertaining, but after that, most of the other time travel scenes seemed long and drawn out to me. The *Thor: The Dark World* scene was a surprise as I did not enjoy that movie in particular, but it was good to be given a character arc for Thor's mom. The part where Thor got Mjolnir, his old hammer, was exciting and kept the entertainment factor going for that scene. I also enjoyed the scene on Vormir because I felt that it gave a proper send off to a character that has been given better characterization as the movies go on: Black Widow. It is emotional to watch her and Hawkeye struggle before she dies, and I think that this is the one scene that benefited from being drawn out. However, I think that the scene from *Captain America: the First Avenger* was pretty slow. It was interesting to witness Tony Stark see his father, but in my opinion, it took a little too long to get to that point, and so it became boring. Then came the scene on Morag and the scene with the old Thanos. The scene on Morag was fine, but the parts with Thanos really frustrated me. Thanos was characterized extremely well,

and in the movie, they take away what made him a great villain. He does not have any reason for what he does--he just wants to kill everyone and start a new world, and suddenly he becomes like every other villain. However, after all the Avengers get back to Earth, and Thanos' army arrives, the movie is spectacular.

The last hour is complete fanservice. Everything you could ever want to happen, happens. Everyone gets their moment: Captain America picks up Mjolnir, Thor uses his lightning to charge Iron Man's blasts, and so much more. The fight scene never feels overlong and never gets boring; instead, it is extremely epic and entertaining throughout. Then, Iron Man gets his moment; he defeats Thanos, but dies in the process. That is the reason that I decided to do a spoiler review. I cannot express enough how satisfying it is to see Iron Man win and succeed at what he has been trying to do since the original *Avengers*. And after he dies, the movie gives him a proper ending to the character. It's an emotional death scene, but not over-the-top. It's just a scene of dedication for the character that started it all in 2008. Then comes the final scene of the movie where Captain America gets to live his life, and he passes on his shield to Falcon. I enjoyed the scene, and it is satisfying to see Captain America have a good ending.

Overall, I LOVED the movie, and I think that it is a spectacular ending to a gargantuan movie franchise that is like nothing we have ever seen before.

**Synopsis:** My rating is 9.5/10: Entertaining and emotional, *Avengers: Endgame* is a fantastic movie that exceeds all expectations.

# NBA Playoffs

By Marshall Green

*\*Due to deadline, some information in this article may be dated\**

Finally, fans of professional basketball can rest because the NBA playoffs are in full swing. In my opinion this is the most unpredictable playoffs in the past five years, and as a basketball fan, I am more than happy to watch all of these close, nail-biting games. Since there is no Lebron in the East and the Warriors look discombobulated in the West, this year's playoffs are going to be madness.

In the Eastern Conference, the first round was less-than-desirable, to say the least. The Milwaukee Bucks absolutely blew the Detroit Pistons away in an easy 4-0 sweep, and the Boston Celtics swept the Indiana Pacers 4-0. The record did not show the tight score of the four games. The winners of the two series are facing each other, and the Bucks secured a 4-1 series win against the Boston Celtics. After the Toronto Raptors beat the Orlando Magic 4-1, they faced the Philadelphia 76ers who defeated the Brooklyn Nets in a 4-1 series win. The series was a seven-game battle with an incredible buzzer-beater shot by Kawhi Leonard to get the series win for Toronto. In the Eastern Conference Finals, the Raptors will beat the Bucks in a six-game series, so the Raptors will be facing the winner of the West in the NBA finals. The reason for my predictions are because the other players for the Raptors are stepping up their games to keep their championship dreams, and their superstar player Kawhi Leonard has had an historic playoff



run throughout the past two series.

The Western Conference Playoffs have been a lot more of a sweepstakes than the underwhelming Eastern Conference. The most exciting series in the first round was the matchup of the Denver Nuggets and the San Antonio Spurs. The series is an exciting chapter in the back-and-forth battle between the well-coached Spurs and the young and exciting Denver team led by Nikola Jokic, and the seven-game battle between two good teams went wire-to-wire with the Nuggets coming out on top as the winner. Another first round matchup was the Portland Trail Blazers and the Oklahoma City Thunder, which was a 4-1 series win by Portland with the heroics of Portland's all star player Damian Lillard. Denver and Portland had a close seven-game series with C.J. McCollum playing a career game seven that secured the win for the Blazers. On the other side of the bracket, the Golden State Warriors were taken to six games by the Los Angeles Clippers, and the Houston Rockets beat the Utah Jazz in a swift 4-1 series win. The Warriors and Rockets were defeated in a six-game series with the Warriors defeating the Rockets. The conference finals are set in stone with a final series of the Portland Trail Blazers and the Golden State Warriors. Unsurprisingly, the defending champion Warriors will blow out Portland in a four game

sweep or five games at best.

My predicted finals scenario of the Raptors and Warriors is a very popular prediction, but let me explain my picks. Over the past half-decade, the Warriors have been running like a well-oiled machine and seem to be unbeatable, and they are in pursuit of three consecutive championships. Golden State is a team full of superstar talent including Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson, Steph Curry, and Draymond Green who have been known to play their best in the NBA Finals. Toronto will be some new blood in the Eastern Conference after the eight consecutive years of Lebron James making the finals. As in past years, Toronto is the best chance to dethrone the Warriors because of their superstar Kawhi Leonard. Kawhi has carved himself not only as a top five defender in the NBA, but also as a top five player in the league. His ability to lead this team is unremarkable and helps his players play better in the post-season. In my final prediction for the Finals, the Raptors will win in a seven game series, and here is why: Kawhi Leonard showed one of the best Finals performances already, he won a Finals MVP at a very young age on a loaded San Antonio Spurs team, and his leadership will lead his talented roster to step up their play in the biggest moments. The Warriors need to be worried about Kevin Durant's calf injury because he has been the motor to keep this dynasty alive.

In conclusion, the fired-up Raptors will take advantage of the wounded Warriors. Kawhi will stay in Toronto after bringing the basketball-lovin' city its first championship and his second Finals MVP behind his legendary play.

# Baseball's High Dollar Deals

By Jose DeLemos



What has happened in baseball recently?! Mike Trout's signing a record-breaking 12 year, \$430 million deal; Manny Machado signing a ten-year, \$300 million deal, and Bryce Harper signing a 13 year, \$330 million deal? First off, let me say this: the MLB needs a cap space system! A team getting these good of players for this long is ridiculous, and it does not affect

a team from going after even more star players because they have an infinite amount of money that they can spend depending on if a team is a big market team. Which means that if the New York Yankees and the Milwaukee Brewers were to go into a bidding war for a player, and the Yankees have spent much more money than the Brewers, the Yankees are always going to win the bidding war because they are a bigger market team, even if they have spent more money than the Brewers.

This system is totally unfair for the smaller market teams such as the Diamondbacks, Rockies and

many other teams due to the fact that their cities are not large enough to get enough money to spend on star players. So, if a team like the Red Sox keeps signing great players for ten years, they will be a juggernaut of a team for ten years! This situation does not affect select teams, but the MLB in all. If a team kept winning the World Series every year, MLB ratings might drop. Nobody would want to watch the same team win the World Series year-after-year after-year! This is starting to sound like what happened with the NBA Draft. Teams knew that they had no chance against other teams, so they tanked for the draft. Eventually lots of teams started to do it, making the NBA a lottery system. All of this to say, the MLB needs to start thinking of putting a cap space system! This will not only make the MLB more fair and exciting, but it will also help teams be much more balanced out.

# Kevin Mawae Returns

By Frank Hancock



On Wednesday, May 24, former Titans center and MBA teacher Kevin Mawae appeared on campus for his Heart of a Hall of Famer program, a program lead by the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio that talks to students about what it takes to be in the Hall of Fame. He was a center for the Tennessee Titans from 2006-2009. Before coming to Tennessee, he was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks in the 1994 NFL Draft 36th overall. Mr. Mawae played in Seattle for three years and then joined the New York Jets where he played for seven years. He retired after 16 NFL seasons and was the last player selected in his draft class to play an NFL game. He was an eight-time Pro

Bowler and seven-time First-Team All-Pro. After being on the Hall of Fame ballot for three years, Kevin Mawae was finally selected to be in the Hall of Fame where he will be inducted in August of this year.

The program was streamed all over the country via Facebook Live. In many classrooms across America, students watched Kevin Mawae speak to them about what it means, what it takes, and how much work he put in to get into the Hall of Fame. One of the main points he talked about was not his love for the actual playing football, but for everything else that surrounded football. The plays, the players, the people, and the locker room were just some of things he missed. He also talked about the respect he had for so many people who played and coached. When asked who was the best player overall that he ever lined up against on the offensive line, he answered with John Randle, who is also

a Hall of Famer. Mawae commented on him saying that there was not another person who worked, studied, and played harder than Randle. Mr. Mawae also made sure the students knew that he was a man of faith. During his early life and career, he did not really focus on his faith and God's overall plan for him, but as he progressed through his career and some people close to him died, Mawae realized his life was more important than football. He makes sure he puts faith over football every time.

Throughout the program MBA Junior Schoolers got to ask Mr. Mawae questions from cards given to us by the programmers. They varied from questions about playing, the Hall of Fame, his experience, and many others. Many students got their questions answered and probably did not wake up that morning thinking they would ask a question to a Hall of Famer.

Overall, it was fun to have Kevin Mawae speak to us and talk to us about his experiences. Many Titans fans will be happy to see him inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Photo Courtesy of Mr. Ardisson

# Baseball B Bookends Season with Wins

By Palmer Phillips

Baseball is a game of sportsmanship, friendship, and most importantly, having fun! The Seventh Grade Microbe B Baseball team executed all of those characteristics and more throughout our first season. Beginning in early February, after what can only be known as the longest tryout in MBA history thanks to rain and more rain, all the way until the last game, the whole team got better every day, every practice, and every game. The whole team played with great attitudes and energy even if some did not much playing time. We all made friendships with each other and even with the coaches (Coach Golenor and Coach Rader).

During the first game, the team worked together even though we had only practiced a few times with each other. Midway through the season, the flu took out half of our team, so we all played in different positions to make sure we could still play (and win). And by the last game, the team showed improvement with their playing, their friendships and their courage to try new things.

Throughout the season, the team continued to get better and better. Our first game was unforgettable because we played outstanding. In the



*The 2019 Microbe B Baseball Team*

first inning, we scored five runs against JT Moore. The other team didn't get many runs thanks to H McIlwain's pitching, and the consistent hitting and fielding from everyone that played. In the end, we won the game because our bats were consistent, and our fielding was great. Another memorable game was the very last game of the season. After losing the first game in the series against Mill Creek Middle School, we came to play in the last game. Thanks to Nick Brunetti's pitching and the team's hot bats -- especially in the last inning -- we won the game when the other team threw the ball over the third baseman's head, and Lenox Leverett "stole" home. It was a combined effort of pitching, hitting, fielding, and base running that helped us win that game against Mill Creek Middle.

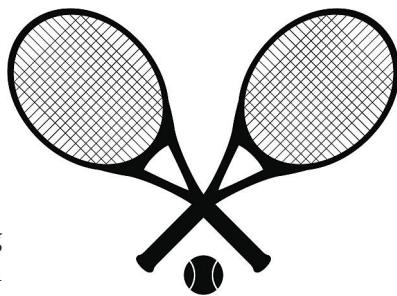
This whole season was a great first year experience of playing baseball for MBA. Each member of the team improved -- not only in baseball, but also in life. We learned to play with new coaches, new friends, and at new places. We ended the season with a team cookout during the Varsity's game against BA. What a great way to end the season -- with friends, food, and fun. I think it's safe to say we are all looking forward to next year's tryouts.

Team: Joseph Baker, David Bellet, Elliot Bragg, Nick Brunetti, Will Caldwell, Blaine Campbell, Dillard Cross, Terran Davis, Jordan Dayani, Morgan Holzapfel, Lenox Leverett, H McIlwain, Palmer Phillips, Ryan Russell, Tristan Scott, Jake Truitt, Gabe Young  
Coaches: Matt Golenor, Ric Rader

## 2019 MBA Spring Tennis Season

By Dawson Stone

The spring season highlights include challenging matches for the Junior



School against McCallie at Sewanee and a tremendous varsity home match against Baylor as well as matches against Lipscomb, Ensworth, and a

Rotary Tournament in Chattanooga.

The JV and Junior School wrapped up the spring season the third week of April with a match against McCallie in Chattanooga. Although that match did not

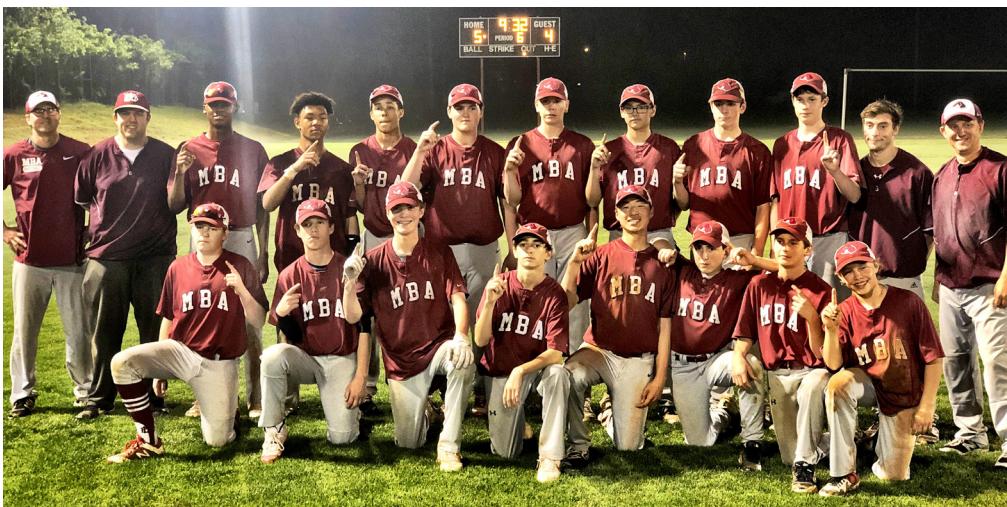
have the hoped for results, there was

optimism about another shot against them in the playoffs. Varsity wrapped the spring season against USN on April 22nd and also enjoyed the Senior Day ceremony honoring the seniors of the team. MBA hosted the Carter Invitational with a great turn out and support from JV and Junior School teammates and family and friends. The Regional Tournament was held at MBA over the first weekend in May. Singles and doubles that finished in the top five in the region qualified for the Individual State Tournament which will be held the last weekend in May.

# Microbe A Baseball Wins HVAC!

By Luke Murray

The 2019 JS Baseball A team was nothing short of amazing. Our team was ready to win after losing in the HVAC Championship that a few members of the team witnessed last year. After two weeks of practices and tryouts (and a lot of rainouts), the team was ready to play. We started off the season playing Mill Creek. Though Mill Creek fought hard, MBA came out to win 11-5. Our team played a good game even though most of us had only been playing together for a few weeks. A few days later MBA was ready to face off against Goodpasture, who struck hard, but MBA struck harder winning 10-8 with a 2-0 record we traveled to Brentwood. We were hungry for a win but BMS came out with a win even after the demonstrated fighting spirit of MBA. The final score was 6-14. A week later we were ready for Heritage. It was a close game, ending with an MBA loss 5-4. With the fire in our bodies after two straight losses, we battled and won against CPA 3-2. A few days later we played USN. While USN gave a good fight MBA, won both games 12-7 and 8-5. The next day we were ready to play one of our rivals: CPA. Again MBA found some grit and won 6-5. Next,



*The 2019 Microbe A Baseball Team - HVAC Champions!*

we played GCA, we played hard and won 8-3. A few days later against Ensworth, we were ready. Ensworth tried to fight hard but fell short losing to MBA 17-0. Next, we played



Nashville Catholic, but we lost 5-7. Though this was tough, we were happy that we had been playing really well. The next day we played our

biggest rival: BA. This was a tough day, but we came out with the win 4-3. This was a big win for us and was

a goal from day one. We wrapped up the season with wins against BGA, Harding, Lipscomb, and JT Moore.

After finishing the regular season 11-3, we were ready for the HVAC Tournament. Because we had played well earlier, we had a bye straight to the semifinals. We played JT Moore for the semis, and after both teams fought hard, MBA came out with the win. Next, we were ready to play in the championship. We had prepared all year for this game. It was a close game with both teams fighting hard to win. MBA lost the lead, but Andrew had a walk-off hit to win the game. After weeks of hard work, we won. Special thanks to all the parents and the coaches for their support this season.



# Microbe

# Spring Golf

By Gabe Lett

The Junior School golf team had a great year of growing as a team. We had five seventh-graders and five eighth-graders playing this season. Coach Kelly helped us grow as golfers and as men. After this season of golf, our team is going to play really well next year. As our eighth-graders move up our seventh-graders will continue to grow and become an even better team than our great team this year.

Our record was one win and eight losses. We had a lot of great and tough competition. The team in every match tried their best, and we always had a close match. Our first and fifth opponent was Page Middle School. They turned out to be a very difficult team for us to defeat. Our team tried its best, and we came very close to winning. The second, third, and seventh matches were against the toughest team in our district. This team was the Ensworth School. We did not play the way we should have, and they beat us. They had tremendous talent, for which we were not prepared. For our third, sixth, and eighth matches we played Brentwood Middle School. This team was good practice for us. We were evenly matched, and we had some of our best guys playing. We continuously fought for first, but we did not get it. In our final match we had a tremendous victory over Christ Presbyterian Academy. We had Hampton Coleman, Ross Sonday, Cameron Kinser, and Will Stewart playing to win us one for the year.



*The 2019 Microbe Spring Golf Team*

During this year we had our eighth graders, who were Hampton Coleman, Cameron Kinser, Will Stewart, Colston Elder, and Claiborne Richards. Our seventh-graders playing this year were Ross Sonday, Will Jackson, Carter Hopper, Gabe Lett, and Jax Leisure. Hampton's scores were greater than the entire team. He was consistent and won nearly every one of his matches individually. He became the competition for our tougher opponents such as Ensworth. He was also selected as a district player. Ross Sunday was our second best on the team and was the best of the seventh-graders. Ross shot second to Hampton in nearly every match. He shot near par in every match and will be a great asset for next year. He was selected as a district player. In every match the team played well, but these outstanding golfers definitely stood out. Every player decreased at least one stroke each round.

District tournament consisted of some very tough teams. The team that played for MBA consisted of Ross Sonday, Hampton Coleman, Colston Elder, Will Stewart, and Will Jackson. These five were also considered our top five scorers for the year. Out of nine difficult teams, we placed fourth. The team played very well and fought till the very end.

I am very excited to see the golf team next spring because we have some great golfers coming to participate. I think after more practice and effort, our new team will have a chance of not losing once. The team will miss the strong eighth-graders that are moving on, but our new players can step up and play miraculous golf. Coach Kelly pushed in every match, and we ended a better team than when we began.

# JS Track

By Andy Nunn

The Junior School track team had a great season and wrapped with a second place finish in the HVAC! The Junior School track team had an overall great year in just about every event. Throughout every meet, the team showed the grit that allowed the team to beat the competition with pure skill. In the throwing events, the team placed well in most of the meets with stellar performances from Crockett Cooper, Quinlan Stewart, and Orman Nimmo, who had never picked up a discus or



shot before his first meet. In the sprinting events, the microbe team dominated the relay events throughout the whole season, thanks to outstanding leadership by eighth-graders Andrew Dovan, Harrison Zoller, and Mitchell Frankum. The three of them also placed very well in the 110 hurdles with Dovan in 2nd and Zoller close behind. Their relay teams achieved second place in the 4x400, and each individual placed in the top four in the 400. Alexander Doulis also placed fifth in the 200. In addition, two seventh-graders, James Buntin and Blake Ragsdale, showed tremendous

grit in their respective events. Also, the distance squad absolutely dominated the distance events achieving second in the 4x800, first and second in the 800 with Oliver Pilkinton almost breaking the record and William Le close behind, and second/sixth in the 1600 with Jackson Lefler breaking five minutes. In the field events, Andrew Dovan almost broke a record in the high jump, and in the pole vault Mac Russ came in very high even though he was hurt for almost all of the season.

In the end, the microbe track team pulled out a second place finish in the HVAC thanks to all of our coaches. On behalf of the whole team, we would like to thank Coach Russell, Coach Reynolds, Coach Cirillo, Coach Paolicchi, Coach Creamer, Coach Hackney, and Coach Dougherty.

## 7th Grade Lacrosse

By Jose DeLemos

The 7th Grade Lacrosse season was unpredictable and inconsistent, but the team improved by the end of the season. Most of the players had little experience, and some had no experience. This team could be great at times and not so great other times. In practice, there was no effort shown sometimes by the team, and this carried into the first couple of games, which all turned out to be losses. As the season progressed though, some players stepped up to become great leaders, like Nate Holder, whose athleticism and toughness could not be stopped by other opponents. Corbin Clifton, who blasted through defences flawlessly, could almost never be stopped. These two players alone gave the team spirit and heart to try a little more than they had the whole season. The team came in to play some opponents like Woodland Middle School and Grassland Middle



*The 2019 7th Grade Lacrosse Team*

School, but the effort did not show in the players, so both of these games turned out to be a loss.

But then, all of a sudden, something changed in the team. The seventh graders started to have consistently good practices, with everyone on the team showing effort. This started to carry into the games, and by the time the team played Harding Academy, they were ready. With guns blazing, the MBA 7th graders came out with heart and effort that no one had seen before. With lots of players coming in and getting goals, making passes, and doing everything they could do, they brought home the first victory of the season. After that, the team would not stop. After some well-played but lost games, MBA was ready to come

into the final week of the season where the seventh graders would get a chance at revenge against some teams that they had already lost to. The seventh graders had a great week of practice, and they won all of their revenge games. As they came into the last game of the season, MBA had their eyes on MUS, MBA's biggest lacrosse rival. The team came out with some early momentum, but could not pull out the win against MUS.

All-in-all, this was a learning season for the Big Red seventh graders, and they will come back next year to show everyone that they are capable of being the best group of players in the state.

# 8th Grade Lacrosse

By Browning  
Trainer and  
Patrick Tatro

The 8th grade lacrosse team had a great season despite finishing with a couple of close losses.

After a solid two days of tryouts, the team consisted of Liam Campbell, Tommy Carson, Payne Daniel, Frank Dinkins, Ryan Fisher, Sam Frank, Cooper Greene, Thomas Harwell, Edward Herlitzka, Henry Huber, Gus Kirkland, Ethan Klindt, Clay Lamb, Luke Larish, Jack Myers, Connor, O'Neil, Henry Roberts, Coleman Smith, Grayson Soper, Jack Spellman, Walker Stevens, Patrick Tatro, Browning Trainer, Evan Viars, Trey Woodcock, Geoffrey Woodward, and Keen Zoller. The team was led by Coach Cooper, Coach Pollock, Coach Hooper, and Coach McWhirter as well as team captains Luke Larish, Grayson Soper, Jack Spellman, and Cooper Greene.

The team spent the first couple of weeks of the season practicing and gearing up for the first game against Grassland. We took a bus down to their field and managed to come home with a solid 8-1 victory despite not being able to feel any of our extremities due to the cold weather. Next, the team went to Crockett Park to take on the Woodland Warriors. In warmer weather, we played a much better



*The 2019 Eighth-Grade Lacrosse Team*

game and won 15-4. The next two games were some of the biggest of our season. We went down to Memphis to take on MUS and Christian Brothers. We left MBA at about 6:30 in the morning and played MUS at 11:00. We squeaked out a massive 7-6 win after a four goal comeback in the fourth quarter was capped off by a go-ahead goal from team captain Luke Larish. We then defeated Christian Brothers 4-2 when Sam Frank put the game out of reach with a goal as time expired. A key player, Coleman Smith, was injured in this game as he tore his ACL while making a cut, and the team missed him throughout the season. It was a great boost to the team to leave Memphis undefeated. After the two wins in Memphis, the team continued its undefeated streak with an 11-3 win against BMS and a 17-2 dispatching of Sunset. We then took on Christian Brothers for the second time and won 13-5, and after that we played one of our best games of the year in a 19-1 win against Grassland. We beat Woodland 8-4 in our next game, and then took on MUS and Ensworth in our last two games. In the MUS game, the team didn't play its best lacrosse and suffered

from the loss of team captain Grayson Soper who was ejected after defending his teammate Jack Myers in a fight. We battled through confusion with calls and nearly made a comeback but ended up losing 8-10. After that tough loss, we moved on to play Ensworth in the last game of the season. Again, the team didn't play its best lacrosse and suffered because of missing players. Grayson Soper was suspended, Coleman Smith and Cooper Greene were injured, and Patrick Tatro and Walker Stevens had to leave in the fourth quarter due to Evening with the Arts. The team battled back into the game after being down early despite these setbacks, but we came up short and lost 8-9.

Despite the season not ending the way we wanted, it was a fun one and a great way to end Junior School sports.



**SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER!**

**FALSE. SCHOOL GETS OUT IN SPRING  
AND STARTS BACK UP IN THE SUMMER.**



## Microbe Crew Rows the Regatta

By Fletcher Robinson

The day of the race began at four o'clock in the morning. We left campus just after five o'clock and spent about two hours on a cramped bus heading to Baylor in Chattanooga. The Junior School boat was: Owen Flanagan, Brooks Smith, Noah Perry, Henry Lee, Jackson Preisler, Owen Henderson, Fletcher Robinson, and Jude Tuminello. When we got there, it was around seven o'clock our time, but eight o'clock Chattanooga time. We had to get the boats and rig them for the race. This means we needed to screw on all the riggers to the boats. If you are not familiar with crew, riggers are used to hold the oar locks, which in turn hold the oars. After an hour or so of rigging, we had to wait around for our race or races, depending on who you are. I went with some of the other guys on our team to watch others who were racing. After a little while, there were dark clouds forming in the sky, and a storm was starting. It started to rain, and then it started to thunder and lightning. The announcer told everyone to go back to his vehicle, so we did. They had the annoying rule that if there was a sound of thunder, they delayed the race for thirty more minutes each time that happened. You were also expected to stay in your vehicle.

After about thirty minutes to an hour, McCallie's bus left; we started to say they went to McDonald's. We also saw that Baylor had left. We were then let out of the bus when it started to clear up a little bit. Some of the high schoolers went on the "slip 'n slide," which meant they would run and slide in a puddle of water and mud. Most of the tents were blown away, so the parents running the food in some of the tents had to put the working ones up again and leave the broken ones. Finally the other schools arrived again and racing started as well. I asked coach Bess when we would row, and found out we were in the last race. So after hours of waiting it became our time to row.

We started warming up and stretching. Then we got to our boat and carried it to the docks for launching. After we got out of the docking area through a tunnel, we did some rowing drills and practiced starts to get to the starting line. Starting in a race is different than regular rowing because you have to row to half slide, then three fourths slide, and then almost full stroke, and finally full stroke. Strokes in crew are just rowing, so if it is one stroke, then it is one pull on the oar for the complete motion. If you haven't done crew, this might still be confusing. For the race we were in, we were rowing against

one high school MBA team and two McCallie teams. During the race we were fighting to get ahead of the secondary McCallie boat while the other MBA boat was fighting to get ahead of the other McCallie boat. We kept pulling slightly past the secondary McCallie boat, and then they would pull up ahead against us. Then while they were slightly past us, we crossed the finish line. It was sad, because we had lost. The only thing a little bit comforting was we were racing against juniors and sophomores while we were eighth-graders and had barely lost.

After we got the boat out of the water and de-rigged it, we met with the coaches and attended the award ceremony. MBA got some good-sized trophies. We were finally able to go home after that long and tiring day. Even though crew is tough, I still love it because it is fun to row. Painful, but fun. Thank you to the high school coaches Coach Kesor and Calico, the junior school coaches Bess, Onstott, and Rush. Additional thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Wanderer at Commodore Yacht Club for letting us store our boats, the administration at MBA, and our bus driver Coach Vigor. Row Red Row!



# THE MBA CLASS OF 2023



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